



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Drinking Water

November 9, 2016

Certified Mail
7012 3460 0003 1112 8151

Cindy Gustafson, General Manager
Tahoe City PUD-Alpine Peaks
P.O. Box 5249
Tahoe City, CA 96145

TRANSMITTAL OF CITATION NO. 01-02-16C-027

Dear Ms. Gustafson:

The State Water Resources Control Board (Board) Division of Drinking Water has issued the Tahoe City Public Utilities District – Alpine Peaks water system a citation, which is attached.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Burgess at (530) 224-6506 or me at (530) 224-4800.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael J. McNamara".

Michael J. McNamara, P.E.
Lassen District Engineer
DRINKING WATER FIELD
OPERATIONS BRANCH

Enclosures

cc: Richard L. Hinrichs, Chief, DDW-Northern California Section
Placer County Department of Environmental Health

3110044/Enforcement
10242016 Cit Ltr/mtb

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101, Redding, CA 96002 | www.waterboards.ca.gov

(hereinafter "Deputy Director"), hereby issues a citation to Tahoe City Public Utilities District – Alpine Peaks (hereinafter, District) (P.O. Box 5249, Tahoe City, CA 96145) for violation of Title 22, Sections 64426 and 64426.1 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

APPLICABLE AUTHORITIES

Section 116650 of California Health and Safety Code provides:

(a) If the department determines that a public water system is in violation of this chapter or any regulation, permit, standard, citation, or order issued or adopted thereunder, the department may issue a citation to the public water system. The citation shall be served upon the public water system personally or by certified mail. Service shall be deemed effective as of the date of personal service or the date of receipt of the certified mail. If a person to whom a citation is directed refuses to accept delivery of the certified mail, the date of service shall be deemed to be the date of mailing.

(b) Each citation shall be in writing and shall describe the nature of the violation or violations, including a reference to the statutory provision, standard, order, citation, permit, or regulation alleged to have been violated.

(c) A citation may specify a date for elimination or correction of the condition constituting the violation.

(d) A citation may include the assessment of a penalty as specified in subdivision (e).

(e) The department may assess a penalty in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per day for each day that a violation occurred, and for each day that a violation continues to occur. A separate penalty may be assessed for each violation.



1 **Title 22, Section 64426 of the California Code of Regulations states:**

2 (a) Any of the following criteria shall indicate a possible significant rise in bacterial count:

3 (1) A system collecting at least 40 samples per month has a total coliform-positive
4 routine sample followed by two total coliform-positive repeat samples in the repeat sample
5 set;

6 (2) A system has a sample which is positive for fecal coliform or *E. coli*; or

7 (3) A system fails the total coliform Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) as defined in
8 Section 64426.1.

9 (b) When the coliform levels specified in subsection (a) are reached or exceeded, the
10 water supplier shall:

11 (1) Contact the State Board by the end of the day on which the system is notified of
12 the test result or the system determines that it has exceeded the MCL, unless the notification
13 or determination occurs after the State Board office is closed, in which case the supplier shall
14 notify the State Board within 24 hours; and

15 (2) Submit to the State Board information on the current status of physical works and
16 operating procedures which may have caused the elevated bacteriological findings, or any
17 information on community illness suspected of being waterborne. This shall include, but not
18 be limited to:

19 (A) Current operating procedures that are or could potentially be related to the
20 increase in bacterial count;

21 (B) Any interruptions in the treatment process;

22 (C) System pressure loss to less than 5 psi;

23 (D) Vandalism and/or unauthorized access to facilities;

24 (E) Physical evidence indicating bacteriological contamination of facilities;



1 (F) Analytical results of any additional samples collected, including source
2 samples;

3 (G) Community illness suspected of being waterborne; and

4 (H) Records of the investigation and any action taken.

5 (c) Upon receiving notification from the State Board of a significant rise in bacterial count,
6 the water supplier shall implement the emergency notification plan required by Section
7 116460, Health and Safety Code.

8
9 **Title 22, Section 64426.1 of the California Code of Regulations provides in relevant part:**

10 (b) A public water system is in violation of the total coliform MCL [maximum
11 contaminant level] when any of the following occurs:

12 (1) For a public water system which collects at least 40 samples per month,
13 more than 5.0 percent of the samples collected during any month are total
14 coliform-positive; or

15 (2) For a public water system which collects fewer than 40 samples per month,
16 more than one sample collected during any month is total coliform-positive;
17 or

18 (3) Any repeat sample is fecal coliform-positive or E. coli-positive; or

19 (4) Any repeat sample following a fecal coliform-positive or E. coli-positive
20 routine sample is total coliform-positive.

21
22 **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

23
24 The Tahoe City PUD-Alpine Peaks water system is classified as a community water system.

25 The District serves 96 active service connections on the mountains west of Lake Tahoe, south



1 of Tahoe City. The water system is currently served by a single active spring source, the Riley
2 Spring. The District does not provide any treatment of the water supplied to its customers.

3
4 On Tuesday, September 6, 2016, the District collected a routine bacteriological sample from the
5 distribution system, for analysis at Western Environmental Testing (WET) Laboratory. On
6 Thursday, September 8, 2016, the District notified the Division that the routine sample had
7 tested positive for total coliform bacteria but absent for E. coli. On September 8, 2016, the
8 District collected five repeat samples, including one sample from the spring source, for analysis
9 at WET Lab. Of the five repeat samples, the samples collected from the routine site and the
10 sites upstream and downstream of the routine site tested positive for total coliform bacteria and
11 absent for E. coli. The spring source sample was absent of total coliform bacteria.

12
13 On September 8, 2016, the District also collected three split samples, which were taken to the
14 Tahoe Truckee Sanitation Agency (TTSA) Laboratory. All three repeat samples analyzed by
15 TTSA Laboratory tested positive for total coliform bacteria and absent for E. coli.

16
17 After being notified of the total coliform positive repeat samples, the District took action to
18 address the coliform contamination in the distribution system by hand chlorinating the District's
19 storage tank to a 1.0 milligram per liter measured free chlorine residual using sodium
20 hypochlorite and flushing the chlorinated water into the distribution system. On September 20,
21 2016, five additional samples collected from the repeat sample sites, including the spring source
22 all tested absent for total coliform bacteria.

23
24 On October 3, 2016, and in accordance with Title 22, Section 64426(b)(2) of the CCR, the
25 District submitted a "Positive Total Coliform Investigation Form" that provided an assessment of
26 the water system for potential causes of the total coliform positive samples. Although the



1 District was unable to determine the cause of the total coliform positive samples, two potential
2 causes and their corrective actions were identified and are described below:

- 3
- 4 1) Stagnant water. The District currently only flushes water mains in response to customer
5 complaints. The District does not routinely flush the distribution system and there is little
6 water usage relative to the water main and storage tank sizes certain times of the year
7 especially during the spring and fall which could result in stagnant water conditions. The
8 District is considering a flushing program to reduce stagnation in the distribution system.
- 9 2) Air pocket. According to District system maps, there are no air relief valves in the
10 distribution system. However, a high point was identified within the distribution system,
11 and District personnel noted an excessive amount of air in the water at this location
12 during flushing. The District is installing an air relief valve at this location.
- 13

14 On October 3, 2016, the District submitted a copy of a notice, approved by the Division, that
15 was used to provide public notification of the total coliform maximum contaminant level
16 exceedance described in this citation to each of the District's customers. The District's
17 notification was provided to each of their customers by mail delivery on October 3, 2016.

18

19 **DETERMINATIONS**

20

21 The Division has determined that the District violated Title 22, Section 64426.1(b)(2) of the
22 California Code of Regulations during September 2016. Specifically, the District exceeded the
23 total coliform maximum contaminant level during the month of September 2016.

24

25

26



DIRECTIVES

The District is hereby directed to take the following actions:

1. Comply with Title 22, Section 64426.1 of the California Code of Regulations during all future monthly monitoring periods.
2. In accordance with Title 22, Section 64463.4(c)(1)(B) of the CCR, and in order to reach persons not likely to be reached by a mail delivery, the District shall post a copy of the notification that was provided to users due to the total coliform MCL exceedance in September 2016 on the District's internet site by no later than November 30, 2016. The District shall maintain the posted notice in place for not less than seven days.
3. Complete and return Attachment 'A' entitled "Certification of Completion of Public Notification" by December 10, 2016. A copy of the notification that was provided to users due to the total coliform MCL exceedance in September 2016 shall be included with the form.

Unless otherwise noted, all documents required under this Citation shall be submitted to the Board at the following address:

Michael J. McNamara, P. E.
Lassen District Engineer
Division of Drinking Water
State Water Resources Control Board
364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101
Redding, CA 96002



1 As used in this Citation, the date of issuance shall be the date of this Citation; and the date of
2 service shall be the date of service of this Citation, personal or by certified mail, on the water
3 system.

4
5 Nothing in this Citation relieves the District of its obligation to meet the requirements of the
6 California SDWA or any regulation, permit, standard or order issued or adopted thereunder.
7 The Division reserves the right to make such modifications to this Citation, as it may deem
8 necessary to protect public health and safety. Such modifications may be issued as
9 amendments to this Citation and shall be effective upon issuance.

10
11
12 **FURTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTION**

13
14 The California SDWA authorizes the Board to: issue a citation with assessment of administrative
15 penalties to a public water system for violation or continued violation of the requirements of the
16 California SDWA or any regulation, permit, standard, citation, or order issued or adopted
17 thereunder including, but not limited to, failure to correct a violation identified in a citation or
18 compliance order. The California SDWA also authorizes the Board to take action to suspend or
19 revoke a permit that has been issued to a public water system if the system has violated
20 applicable law or regulations or has failed to comply with an order of the Board; and to petition
21 the superior court to take various enforcement measures against a public water system that has
22 failed to comply with or violates an order of the Board. The Board does not waive any further
23 enforcement action by issuance of this citation.

Attachment A

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION OF PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

This form, when completed and returned to the Division of Drinking Water (364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101, Redding, CA 96002), serves as certification that public notification to water users was completed as required by the California Water Quality and Monitoring Regulations. Completing public notification and providing the Division of Drinking Water with certification is important. Failure to do so will result in additional hourly time charges to your water utility and may result in a formal enforcement action with monetary penalties.

Public Water System Name Tahoe City PUD – Alpine Peaks

Public Water System No. 3110044

Public notification for the September 2016 Total Coliform MCL exceedance was performed by the following method(s) (check and complete those that apply):

☐ The notice was published in the local newspaper on _____. A copy of the newspaper notice is attached.

☐ The notice was mailed to users on _____. A copy of the notice is attached.

☐ The notice was hand delivered to water customers on _____. A copy of the notice is attached.

☐ The attached notice was posted in the following conspicuous places:

For this method, provide the date (or dates) that the notice was posted _____.

I hereby certify that the above information is factual.

Printed Name

Signature

Date